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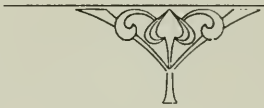

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Foreword.

WELLINGTON as residential town, as touring base, and as commercial centre, is the theme of this little handbook.

The two first aspects have long been familiar to the public. Wellington has seldom been mentioned apart from the Wrekin—the two are inseparable in one's mental associations.

There are unmistakable signs, however, that commercial developments on a large scale will take place here in the near future; so that this characteristic of the town deserves as much prominence as the other two.

It is not anticipated that these developments will detract from the residential amenities, as the "industrial zone" is separate from the other parts of the town.

As for the surrounding district, this is singularly rich in scenic and historical interests. It deserves to be more thoroughly explored, and if this little Guide helps to induce many visitors to make the tours of exploration, then the aim of the Publishers will have been attained.

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Wellington - - Salop.

Wellington (Salop).

WHEREVER Englishmen go, to the diamond fields of South Africa, or the wheat prairies of Manitoba—amid Arctic ice or beneath Antipodean suns, and wherever Shropshire men are found, "To all friends round the Wrekin" is as heartily re-echoed as it is at the close of a civic feast in any part of Shropshire.

The Shropshire town of Wellington, which was constructed on the famous Roman highway of Watling Street from London to *Uriconium*, has changed in a way that could hardly have been anticipated by our mediæval forefathers. Until the seventeenth century Wellington slumbered pleasantly amid its picturesque surroundings, when owing to the development of the coal pits and the iron industry in the district lying to the south, it began to become an important commercial centre. In the first half of the last century it became a railway centre of importance, with two great main lines—the London and North-Western and Great Western Railways—converging upon it, and thence, together with their branch lines, spreading in all directions. It is a prosperous market town, serving an extensive area of country round, largely agricultural, but in parts also mining and manufacturing. The town covers an area of 700 acres. The population of the urban area is 7,600, but the inhabitants of the town and its adjacent townships (almost suburbs), is probably nearer 25,000.

Wellington is most charmingly situated at a considerable elevation above sea level, and it is said that the steps leading into the Parish Churchyard are at a greater elevation than the top of St. Mary's Church spire, Shrewsbury.

It should be noted that the manufacturing district lies entirely on one side of the town, which is surrounded

on the other three by charming country and wooded hills, and is entirely without the smoke and grime usually associated with modern industry.

The town is well supplied with good hotel accommodation, the principal Hotels being the Wrekin, and the Charlton Arms, which has the R.A.C. and A.A. appointments. There are also the Bull's Head Hotel, the "Cock" Hotel, Duke of Wellington Hotel, and the Central Temperance Hotel. Cyclists should note the provision made for their comfort and refreshment at Arthur's Tea Room in New Street. Mr. J. W. Heath has excellent Dining and Tea Rooms in the same thoroughfare.

Prior to 1894 the town was administered by a Board of Improvement Commissioners; it is now governed by an Urban District Council. The population has been steadily increasing for several years, and recently the growth has been much more rapid. The water supply is pure and abundant. It is an upland scheme from gathering grounds round the Wrekin. The water is impounded in a reservoir of 22,000,000 gallons capacity, and until recently there was an adequate supply for a town of 8,000 inhabitants. With the growth of the district the Urban Council, under the direction of their engineer, put down a bore-hole in the red sandstone, and now there is a water supply sufficient for a much larger town. The water is pumped from the bore-hole 246 feet deep into the Wrekin reservoir. filters have been laid down, and the water has proved highly satisfactory. In the matter of sewerage all the latest methods have been adopted and from a sanitary point of view Wellington holds a position equalled by few towns in England.

The streets are with two exceptions reasonably broad, well cared for and with paved footpaths. This especially applies to the outskirts of the town, where the roads are bordered by many well-built villas. There are several picturesque half-timbered houses in the town, of which mention may especially be made of the "Cock Hotel," in Watling Street, the "Swan" Hotel and "Buck's Head" Inn—both in the Holyhead Road—

Judges Ltd., Photo. A GENERAL VIEW OF WELLINGTON.

and a shop in the "Market Square." The town has an aspect of neatness, cleanliness and good order, and gives an assurance that its affairs are well managed by the Urban District Council. The local rates are moderate, and the markets draw people from a very large surrounding area, the Smithfield being one of the largest and most important in the West of England. Generally, Wellington is regarded to-day as a go-ahead town, and will no doubt make considerable strides in the near future. This well-ordered country town has also become noted as an educational centre, and in its midst stand some of the finest scholastic establishments to be found in this part of England. For details about the Grammar School turn to the announcement on page 43.

Public Buildings.

The Offices of the Urban District Council are in Walker Street, where are also situated the Offices of the Board of Guardians.

The Corn Exchange underneath the **Town Hall** is largely attended on market days (Thursday) by farmers and dealers.

A **Public Library** and **Reading Room** was opened some years ago in commemoration of the coronation of King Edward VII., and the town owes a deep debt of gratitude to the late H. H. France-Hayhurst, Esq., of Overley, who gave the building and a handsome contribution in addition. It is situated in Walker Street.

The Ercall Assembly Room, Market Street, is a very convenient hall for ordinary meetings, but it is not large enough for great occasions.

Fire Brigade. This is an efficient organisation under the control of the Urban District with Headquarters in Walker Street. One of the latest model steam Fire Engines is included in its equipment.

Cottage Hospital. This is a modern and well-equipped building, situated in its own grounds in the Haygate Road. It was built and equipped from funds provided under the will of the late Mrs. Bowring, who also partially endowed it.

Public Recreation Ground. This was also provided by a bequest from Mrs. Bowring and is beautifully situated in the Haygate Road and commands lovely views of the Wrekin and Ercall hills. Bowls, Tennis and other games may be enjoyed there in season.

Banks. If there could be any doubt of the financial growth of Wellington and district, a glance at the Banks would quickly dispel it, for there are three flourishing establishments, viz.: Lloyds, in Church Street; Barclays Bank, a very handsome terra-cotta building in the same thoroughfare, and the London Joint City and Midland Bank at the top of Station Road. Another important Bank is understood to have purchased premises for a branch.

The General Market Hall is a large building with entrances from Market Street and Market Square. Adjoining is the Town Hall, now let as a Cinema Theatre, but available on Wednesdays for public meetings.

The Y.M.C.A. has large premises in Walker Street, the building containing a large assembly room which is available for public purposes.

The Head Post Office is in Church Street, and there are sub-offices at Mill Bank and in Haygate Road.

Newspaper. *The Wellington Journal and Shrewsbury News* is widely circulated in the district.

Educational Facilities.

The Old Hall School, beautifully situated on the edge of the Wrekin range, stands in its own grounds of 25 acres, on gravel soil, about 70 feet above the town of Wellington. It is one of the oldest and most picturesque Halls in Shropshire, the walls of the old oak-panelled drawing-room being attributed to Saxon times. It was the ancient residence of the Foresters, keepers of the Royal Forest of Mount Gilbert or the Wrekin. There is a beautiful old-world garden of seven acres, noted for its flowers and vegetables, and the cricket field of 6¾ acres is one of the best in Shropshire. The school has its own farm and laundry.

The Old Hall is conducted by Mr. R. H. Hickman as a first-class Preparatory School for boys under fifteen. The Headmaster has had an exceptional record of Entrance Scholarships at all the leading Public Schools and the Royal Naval College. The boys' premises have recently been re-modelled and brought up to the highest standard of modern requirements, and a splendid new wing built ; the sanitary arrangements are excellent throughout. There is an open-air swimming bath in the gardens, and a large gymnasium offers facilities for physical training. There is accommodation for over 100 boarders, and inspection is cordially invited.

Wellington College. This School was founded by Mr. John Bayley in 1880, through whose untiring energy it has developed until it has become one of the leading Public Schools in the Midlands. The School occupies a fine block of modern buildings, especially designed and erected for this purpose, situated in the outskirts of the town. The buildings, apart from the usual dormitories, class-rooms, etc., comprise Drill Hall and Armoury for the O.T.C., Swimming Bath, Gymnasium, School Chapel, etc., while the grounds and playing fields are large and splendidly laid out. There is a Golf Course on the grounds.

In the Summer of 1920 Mr. Bayley announced he would retire from active school life at the close of the year, and that a controlling interest in the School had been acquired by a Board of Governors. It is the intention of these gentlemen to further develop the School along the best Public School lines and traditions. Any profits, after paying administrative expenses, will be devoted to the further development of the School and the provision of University Scholarships for the boys.

Wellington High Schools. These were formed in 1912 to give a Secondary School education. They occupy a large block of buildings, erected in 1912 for the purpose, one side forming the Girls' High School,

W. Cooper Edmonds, Photo.

VIEW OF GRAVEL PITS, FROM THE ERCALL, NEAR WELLINGTON.

and the other the Boys' High School. Each school has its own Staff, and the playing-fields, class-rooms, etc., are entirely separate. Both schools have already outgrown their accommodation, and further additions are contemplated, to provide for the many boys and girls who are entered for these successful establishments.

Wellington Grammar School. This is a private establishment in New Street, for boys, conducted by Mr. Webb. It enjoys an enviable reputation for the training given to its pupils, especially those entering on a commercial or professional career.

Sports and Pastimes.

Bowls. This pastime is catered for by the Charlton Bowling Club, who have an excellent ground behind the Charlton Hotel. A Green is also available at the Public Recreation Ground in Haygate Road.

Tennis. There are four good Courts in the grounds of the Wellington Lawn Tennis Club, in Mill Bank. The game may also be enjoyed at the Public Recreation Ground in Haygate Road.

Fishing may be obtained in the Severn and Tern.

Golf. The Wrekin Golf Club has an excellent 18-hole Course within ten minutes' walk of the Railway Stations. Sunday play, with caddies, is allowed. Visitors' fees: 3/6 per day, 12/6 per week, 25/- per month. Membership 280; Club 'Phone, 89 Wellington; Secretary's 'Phone, 83 Wellington.

Amusements. The Grand Theatre, in Tan Bank, a very comfortably-seated building, is visited weekly by some of the best touring companies in the latest West End successes, and adds considerably to the amenities of the town. There are also two well-equipped Cinema Theatres.

Places of Worship.

The Parish Church of All Saints is a Saxon foundation. The mediæval church was pulled down in 1789, and the new church was erected in 1790. It is a

commodious structure, of freestone with a square tower. Iron has been used wherever possible, instead of wood, in building. It contains an exquisitely-finished brass eagle lectern.

Christ Church was erected in 1838, as a chapel-of-ease to the Parish Church, but is now the centre of a parish. It is mainly of light-coloured brick, and in recent years many improvements have been effected.

The Baptist Church, in King's Street, was greatly improved and extended some years ago.

The Congregational Church, in Constitution Hill, is also a fine building.

Both of these churches have, however, recently united, and now form one congregation. Services are held alternately at each church.

The Wesleyan Church, in New Street, is a very handsome building.

The Primitive Methodists have churches in Tan Bank and Lee Gomery.

The Roman Catholic Church of St. Patrick, situated at the junction of Plough Road and King Street, was opened in 1906 by Bishop Webster Allen.

Delightful Walks and Drives.

The whole neighbourhood abounds in delightful walks and drives, all within easy distances, embracing objects of great interest to the botanist, geologist and antiquarian. Posting and motoring excursions to these places can be arranged at moderate charges. During the Summer many excursions are frequently run to Wellington. One of the prettiest sylvan drives is along the Ercall Road to the Forest Glen, at the base of the Wrekin, and on to Little Wenlock.

Apley Castle. This is a fine Georgian mansion, situated in an extensive park, one mile north-east of Wellington, and is the seat of Sir Thomas Charlton Meyrick, Bart., C.B. Apley Castle was the seat of the Charltons, an ancient family, formerly seated at Charlton

Castle, below the Wrekin, and afterwards, as early as the reign of Edward I., at Apley. The old castle remains are now converted into stables. The gardens and grounds are laid out with much taste, and the public are allowed to walk through the extensive Park. The old Castle was the scene of some sanguinary fighting in the Civil Wars, and in 1643 was captured by the Parliamentarians, under Col. Mytton from Wem. It was soon recaptured by the Royalists, under Col. Ellis, from Shrewsbury, who captured ten officers and seventy-three other prisoners, besides large stores of munitions.

Orleton Hall. This pleasantly-situated residence of Colonel Edward Herbert, C.B., is about a mile-and-a-quarter from Wellington, in the direction of the Wrekin. It is surrounded by a fine expanse of well-timbered park-land. The estate, which includes a considerable portion of the Wrekin, came into possession of the late Hon. Robert Charles Herbert (uncle of the present Earl Powis) by his marriage, in 1854, with the heiress of the ancient Shropshire house of Cludde.

Dothill Park is situated about a mile from Wellington, and the house, which is of plain exterior, was built as a hunting seat by an ancestor of the present Lord Forester. The Park is walled round, and commands some fine views of the Wrekin and surrounding country. The Foresters own the quaint hereditary right of remaining covered in the presence of their Sovereign which ancient custom they share with the family of Lord Kingsale. Five daughters of the first peer were noted "toasts" in the early days of Queen Victoria's reign: they all married men of position, and among them were a Lady Bradford, a Lady Chesterfield, and a Lady Londesborough.

Arleston Hall was formerly a hunting-box of the Lords Forester, and is a fine half-timbered Tudor manor house, with the date 1614 on one of the gables. It contains a fine plaster ceiling, and a painted figure, let into a wall, said to represent James I. The Hall lies about a mile from the town, off the Bridgnorth Road.

"THE MOUNTAIN GLORY OF THE COUNTY."

But to the average visitor the greatest charm of Wellington lies in its rich scenic surroundings, with the romantic height of the Wrekin, the "mountain glory of the county," and its sister hill, the Ercall, dominating the beautiful undulating pastoral country that stretches for miles around. From the summit of the Wrekin, 1,320 feet above sea-level, one gains a view over nineteen counties—hence the reference by Lord Macaulay in *The Armada*: "Streamed in crimson on the wind the Wrekin's crest of light."

The hill takes its name from two Saxon words, **Wre** and **Ken,** signifying the highest or most conspicuous hill. In Norman times it was known as Mount St. Gilbert, and was the centre of a vast forest, a favourite hunting-ground of the early Plantagenet Kings. On the summit of the hill are traces of an ancient British encampment, with artificial mounds and a well-defined fosse, the entrance in the north being known as Heaven's Gate, and the other as Hell's Gate. The hill rises abruptly from the vast plain around, and the lovely panorama gained from its summit embraces the wooded hills of Acton Burnell, the Caradoc, Lawley and Longmynd, the Brown Clee, the Titterstone, the Breidden, the Stiperstone range, the "lion-shaped" hill of Pontesford, Haughmond, Grinshill, Hawkstone and Pimhill. On the Worcestershire border may be seen the Clent and Abberley Hills and the far-off Malvern range, while the "Sugar Loaf" in Monmouthshire, and, in Wales, the Beacons of Breconshire, Plinlimmon, Cader Idris, Aran Fawddwy, the Berwyns, Arran Benllyn, and the Snowdonian range, may be seen; to the right are the Cheshire hills.

To accomplish the ascent of the Wrekin is no mean task, but if undertaken in a leisurely manner, with a halt every now and again to enjoy the constantly-expanding view from one or other of the glades that open out in the rich growth of timber with which the sides of the hill are clad, the effort becomes enjoyable rather than fatiguing, and the reward when the summit is reached is rich enough to compensate for all the efforts exerted.

A rough road, starting from the Forest Glen at its foot, near the Reservoir, winds gently up to the Half-way Cottage, after which the gradient is easily negotiated to the top.

No one is supposed to have "explored" the Wrekin unless he has passed through the "Needle's Eye," a cleft between the pile of rocks known as the Bladder Stone, which is only wide enough for one person to pass through at a time. This cleft is popularly supposed to have been formed "when the rocks were rent" at the Crucifixion. On the same side of the hill is a conical mass of rock on the top of which is a small, round cavity, that always contains water. This is called the "Raven's Bowl," or the "Cuckoo's Cup." In the driest seasons water is always to be found here. Tradition declares the "unfailing spring" to have been specially prepared by heaven for the use of the pious hermit, Gilbert, who once inhabited the hill, but another explanation of the cause of this somewhat marvellous phenomenon is offered by geologists.

The "Forest Glen" Pavilion is most pleasantly erected between the Wrekin and Ercall Hills, and provides refreshments: also at the Wrekin Cottage Refreshment Rooms (see page 18), half-way up the hill, the needs of the visitor are capably catered for.

Notes for Nature-Lovers.

Whilst several species of birds of interest to the ornithologist are to be met with in the area of the Wrekin and Ercall Hills, it is regrettable that, owing to the preservation of game, raptorial birds are little in evidence, though the sparrow and kestrel hawks are still to be met with. The little merlin has once or twice been observed by the writer. The tawny, long-eared and screech owls still breed here, and the hoot of the former, probably the commonest of the British species, may often be heard late in the evenings. The carrion crow and the magpie—the latter, perhaps, the handsomest of the British *corvidæ*, the jay not excepted—are generally annihilated by the keepers as soon as they obtain foothold, but the jay is still to be found on its

Judges Ltd., Photo.

THE SUMMIT OF THE WREKIN.

noiseless wings, or skimming over the meadows after its insect prey. The wood warbler, the largest of the willow wrens, is a common species on the Wrekin and Ercall, being much more common than the chiff-chaff and willow-wren. Then there is the tiny gold-crest, the smallest of British birds, which is frequently to be seen. The turtle dove, often called the Wrekin Dove, from its being more numerous around the neighbourhood than in any other portion of the British Isles, can readily be distinguished from any other of the British *columbidæ*, not only by its small size, but also by its being the only "member of the family" not lacking a slate-grey plumage. In the Spring and Autumn the curlew may occasionally be seen or heard passing overhead, possibly on its way to the Longmynd, just beyond, where they breed.

Places of Interest in the District.

Wrockwardine.

This is a very pretty village, two miles from Wellington, and the Parish Church of St. Peter is of Saxon foundation. In the third quarter of the twelfth century considerable alterations took place. A new chancel was built, and the church was made cruciform with a central tower and north and south transepts. Late in the fourteenth century a chapel was built on the north side of the chancel, and other alterations and extensions have been made from time to time. The chancel is separated from the north or Cludde Chapel by a low, four-centred arch. There is no old glass in the church, but a window in the south transept commemorates the Hon. R. C. Herbert, who married the heiress of the Cludde family in 1854, and died in 1902. Other windows commemorate the late Mr. Newill and Mrs. R. C. Herbert.

Of Charlton Castle, two miles south-west, nothing remains but the mound on which it stood and a fragment of masonry.

Wroxeter—The *Uriconium* of the Romans.

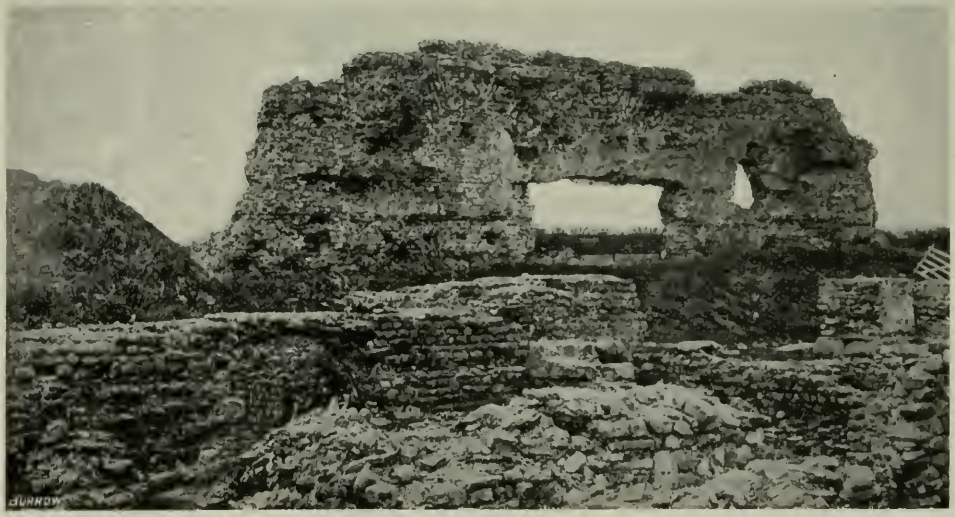
Five miles from Wellington is the famous Roman City of *Uriconium* or Wroxeter, and anciently the chief town of the Roman province of *Britannia Secunda*. A very vivid account of the destruction of the city in 504 is given in Green's "Making of England." For ages past the site of the city of *Uriconium* has been marked by a mass of solid masonry, some 72 feet long, upwards of 20 feet high, and a uniform thickness of three feet. This, the only portion of the ruins above ground, is part of the remains of the South Wall of the basilica or town hall of the Roman Military Station, by the Saxons called Wrekinceaster, or Wroxeter. The Romans selected a lovely spot for their settlement, between the Severn and the Wrekin, on a plateau of rich alluvial soil, from which fine views of the country and a panorama of mountain scenery, formed by the Wenlock and Stretton Hills, the Caradoc and the Breidden, and the more distant Welsh Mountains, backed by the isolated form of the Wrekin, are striking features. About fifty years ago the Shropshire Archæological Society obtained the consent of the Duke of Cleveland to make excavations near the ruined wall, and a certain number of acres were rented to this Society for the purpose. Previous to this time no systematic attempt had been made to examine the ground. Through past years coins in abundance and curious relics and fragments of pottery were turned up by ploughmen and others, and the fine sepulchral stones preserved in the old Shrewsbury Grammar School were unearthed. The Society mentioned commenced their excavations near the old wall, and soon uncovered three other walls parallel with that standing, which, with cross or end walls, formed three enclosures, each 226 feet long, but of varying widths. Portions of the bases, shafts and capitals of pillars were scattered about in these spaces, the floors of which were paved with small tiles

(three inches by one inch), in herring-bone fashion. The doorways of these buildings were traceable, also the grand entrance of the principal enclosure. At the eastern end was a pavement of fine mosaic. It was found that this building, supposed by Mr. Thomas Wright to be a basilica, abutted on a street at right angles with which ran the old Watling Street. Further on, the workshop of a worker in metal was discovered, and six or seven hypocausts beneath structures which were the public baths of the city. Numerous human skeletons were discovered during the excavations, and in the corner of one of the hypocausts, as though he had concealed himself on the spot, was the crouching skeleton of a very old man, and close by him lay a little heap of coins, 132 in number, and traces of rotten wood and a number of small iron nails, the remains of the old man's money-box. Several old houses were dug into, and numerous tesselated floors were found, while the walls of some were seen to have been lined with tiles in patterns. In another part the remains of the Market House were discovered. By far the larger portion will be found admirably arranged in the Society's Museum in Shrewsbury. The city is supposed to have been occupied by the Saxons after its evacuation by the Romans, and to have been sacked and burnt by the Danes in one of their earliest irruptions. Subsequently the Roman masonry was appropriated by church-builders in different parts, as at Atcham, three miles away, and in the Parish Church of the present village of Wroxeter. Further excavations were commenced in 1912, but had to be discontinued in 1914, after further important discoveries had been made.

At the entrance to the churchyard stand two Corinthian pillars, almost entire, and there are several broken shafts, columns and capitals in a garden adjoining.

Wroxeter Church.

In this church, dedicated to St. Andrew, there are many features of Saxon and Norman character. The chancel arch is of twelfth century date. The north wall



R. L. Bartlett, Photo.

REMAINS OF THE BASILICA AT THE ROMAN CITY OF URICONIUM, NEAR WELLINGTON.

of the nave is Saxon work, in which Roman materials have been used, and there are traces of a very beautiful Norman doorway and much Norman work of the twelfth century in the chancel. A Saxon cross of the eighth or ninth century is built into the south wall, and the font was originally the capital of a Norman column. In the church are the monuments of the Newport and Bromley families, constituting in themselves a history upon which one could dwell for a long time. The three principal monuments (in a wonderful state of preservation) are :—(1) Sir Thomas Bromley, Lord Lyster, once Lord Chief Justice, dated 1555. He is depicted in his official robes, with the Judge's biretta or cap. (2) Sir Richard Newport, of High Ercall, and Dame Margaret, his wife, dated 1570. (3) Sir Francis Newport, of High Ercall, and his wife, dated 1680. Another marble monument is to the memory of Francis, second Lord Newport, and first Earl of Bradford, dated 1708.

Eyton-on-Severn Hall, one-and-a-half miles south-east of Wroxeter, was the ancient home of the Newports, and consists not only of two turreted summer houses, built in the early seventeenth century, on a terraced walk, one of these adapted and added to being now the present residence, but the others remain untouched. The walled kitchen garden and an avenue of Spanish chestnuts, relics of the old house, also survive.

Wenlock Abbey.

From Wellington to the ancient town of Wenlock, about eleven miles distant, there is an excellent train service, and many objects of interest are to be found in the borough, the chief one being the Cluniac Abbey of St. Milburga, where a nunnery was founded in the seventh century by Milburga, daughter of Merewald, King of Mercia (the founder of Leominster Priory), who laid the first stone of Llan Meilen (its ancient name), A.D. 680. After an existence of about 200 years it was destroyed by the Danes, A.D. 896 ; it is said to have been restored by the Lady Godiva, as a college

for secular priests, but this building, after an existence of scarcely half-a-century, was demolished by the Normans. The edifice of which the present ruins are the remains was commenced by Roger de Montgomery, a kinsman of the Conqueror, and commander of the Norman vanguard at Hastings. The new foundation speedily rose to great magnificence as a house of the Cluniac Order, and the remains of St. Milburga, discovered during the erection of the new church, were

J. L. Della Porta, Photo. WENLOCK ABBEY.

re-interred in front of the high altar, May 26th, 1101. The Priory was originally subservient to the House of La Charite-sur-Loire. The priories of Dudley, Paisley, Bermondsey and others were affiliated to the Abbey of Wenlock, and it received many marks of Royal favour, especially during the reigns of Richard I. and Edward III. A bull of Pope Alexander III., freeing it from foreign subjection, was granted in 1494, but it was dissolved by King Henry VIII. in 1539 or 1540, when, with the exception of small pensions to the prior, sub-prior and eleven monks, the whole of the revenue

amounting to £431 were seized by the King; it afterwards became successively the property of the Lawley, Bertie, Gage and Wynn families, and, lastly, of the present owners, the Milnes Gaskell family.

The ruins of the Abbey buildings are very interesting. The Priory Church was over 350 feet in length, the nave 156 feet, space under the tower 39 feet, and the choir 156 feet. The remains are Early English, and there may be mentioned three sides of the south transept, three bays of the south aisle, and part of the west wall of the nave. The bases of the pillars which supported the tower are *in situ*. These ruins contain remains which show many fine specimens of architecture, such as the beautiful gallery which ran along the second storey of the church, consisting of series of pointed arches divided by slender clustered pillars. The well-head in the garth remains, but the Lady Chapel (east of chancel) has almost entirely disappeared. The Infirmary (or perhaps the Chapter-House) is part of Montgomery's building, and should be noted. Montgomery's Infirmary and the Priors' Lodge have been converted into a private house, the present residence of the owners, and is in some respects unique. The Priors' Hall has a splendid roof.

Wenlock also contains many other interesting and picturesque old buildings,—the old half-timbered Gaol House in Swindon Street, erected in 1577, should be noted. The fine Church (Holy Trinity) ranges from Norman to Perpendicular in architecture. A round arch separates the chancel from the nave, and the arches between the nave and aisles are supported by beautiful clustered pillars. The square tower, surmounted by a lead-covered timber spire, is built against a fine Norman doorway. In the churchyard are several quaint epitaphs. The Guildhall is a half-timbered building, supported by wooden columns; the Butter Market is held in the Colonnade underneath. Two pillars near the entrance form the whipping posts, the wrist fetters still remaining. Upstairs, the first room, or common hall, is used for the Quarter Sessions,

and over the Recorder's Chair are the Arms of Queen Elizabeth and the date 1589. The old Latin inscription should be noted. The movable stocks are preserved here. The inner room, richly panelled, is the Council Chamber ; over the Mayor's seat is an old sword of Justice, dated 1757.

Visitors to Wenlock should ride or walk along the Church Stretton Road to beyond Presthope Station, as some beautiful views are to be obtained from the road which in places runs along the edge of the ridge which on this side drops sheer for several hundred feet.

Other places worth visiting are Buildwas Abbey (close to Buildwas Railway Station), Iron Bridge (reached from Buildwas by a short walk), Lilleshall Abbey and Church (6 miles north-east of Wellington), Eaton Constantine (4 m.), with its interesting historical associations, Haughmond Abbey (5 m.), and High Ercall (5 m.), with its fine old manor house.

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THE COMMERCIAL ASPECT OF WELLINGTON

and its Advantages as a Site for New Industries.

The industries carried on in Wellington itself are few, but within a few miles of its market place are many large and prosperous works and factories. Wellington, therefore, is rather the commercial centre of a small compact industrial district, as well as a large agricultural area, than a manufacturing town itself.

The manufacturing district lies to the south-east and east of the town, and is served by the main lines of the Great Western and London & North-Western Railways, as well as branch lines belonging to each Railway, all of which merge at Wellington. It is also served by the Shropshire Union Canal; and lying, as it does, almost midway between Bristol, Liverpool and the South Welsh seaports, and within four hours' journey from London, the transport facilities cannot well by excelled. The local manufacturers are, therefore, admirably placed, both for obtaining their raw material and despatching, whether inland or overseas, their finished articles. As regards fuel, there are situated in the district many large and small collieries, providing a supply close at hand both of industrial and household fuel, while within short distances there are several other large coalfields.

It will thus be seen that as a site for new industries Wellington is admirably situated: fuel and transport are good, while the many amenities of social life, and the recreations provided in Wellington itself (to which reference is made in the early pages of this Guide), together with the beautiful country around, and the many outdoor sports and pastimes which it offers, render it an ideal place of residence for those engaged in one or other of the modern industrial processes. The management of the works cannot but profit from the greater efficiency and contentment of workers, whose spare time can be filled up so pleasantly and fully, and under such healthy conditions.

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The existing industries of the district, apart from the coal mining, to which reference has been made, are largely concerned with iron and steel. At Priors Lee, two miles from Wellington, are the large Iron and Steel Furnaces and Rolling Mills of the Lilleshall Company. There are also a number of large Engineering establishments, employing many thousands of hands, whose products are varied, and include motor wheels and bodies, gas-works plant, bridges, gas engines, developing to thousands of horse-power each, P.T. head-gear, and Rolling Mills, to mention a few. Two large Malleable Iron Foundries are situated respectively at Oakengates and Madeley, their productions being in great demand. Another branch of the metal trade carried on is the manufacture of light castings, *i.e.*, gutters and rain-water piping, ranges, fireplaces, etc., used by builders, one of the firms concerned being among the foremost in the trade, with a history dating back nearly two centuries.

At Ironbridge, six miles from Wellington, along the banks of the Severn, the potter's trade is extensively practised, the manufacture of tiles, both of the decorative (encaustic) variety and the common roofing tile, employing many hundreds of people. Near here are situated the works in which the world-famous Coalport China is made.

In Wellington itself a large industry is the manufacture of Agricultural Implements, in which three firms are occupied; there are also three breweries, and a large wood-turnery establishment.

It is hoped that shortly, as the country settles down, many more industries will be located in this district, where the facilities are so noteworthy.

Heads of industrial concerns into whose hands this Guide may come are invited to investigate the industrial advantages of the Wellington neighbourhood.

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Crewe	31	Stafford	21
Dudley	24	Stoke-on-Trent	32
Gloucester	67	Walsall	25
Hereford	61	Welshpool	40
Kidderminster	27	Wolverhampton	18
Liverpool	58	Worcester	41
London	141	Wrexham	40
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Dudley	2/1½	Stoke-on-Trent	2/7½
Gloucester	6/1	Walsall	2/2½
Hereford	4/11½	Welshpool	2/6
Kidderminster	3/1½	Wolverhampton	1/7½
Liverpool	5/7½	Worcester	4/–
London	11/0½	Wrexham	3/4
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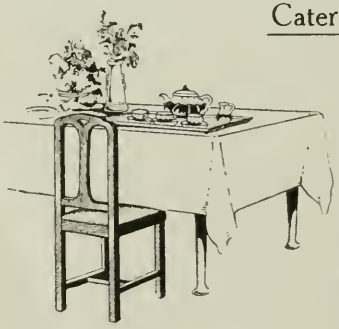

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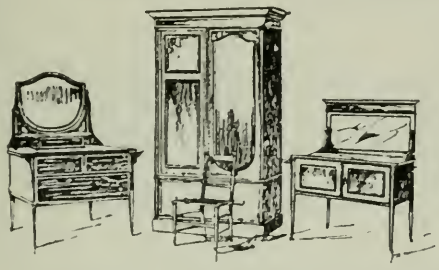

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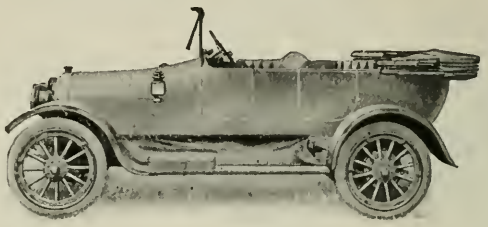

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